It’s been a busy year at The Bahá’í Chair for World Peace. We have worked hard to further our mission and serve as an invaluable resource to the University of Maryland and the world beyond. Thank you for partnering with us, whether in word, thought, or deed, during this momentous year.

The Bahá’í Chair for World Peace believes that when the world appears to unravel, we fight harder for peace. When identity creates chasms between groups of people, we must shine a light on pathways towards shared identity. When racial, ethnic, gender, and other biases blind us, we engage in discourse around human diversity and our common humanity.

In 2019, The Bahá’í Chair for World Peace held two major conferences, five expert lectures, and two symposia. These events were attended by more than 1,000 individuals at the University of Maryland and seen on our YouTube channel by almost 9,000 viewers around the world. Since we began this mission in 2013, Chair events have been attended by more than 5,000 individuals, and viewed online by over 40,000 people.

Professor Alondra Nelson, President of the Social Science Research Council, and Professor at the Institute for Advance Study in Princeton was the speaker at our prestigious Annual Lecture. Dr. Nelson gave a galvanizing talk on the role of government in guaranteeing the inclusive well-being of all citizens.

Our first major conference, Women in the World: Time for a New Paradigm for Peace, featured 16 invited academics and practitioners from all over the world. The conference was dedicated to examining the critical relationship between women’s equality and advancement as a prerequisite to prosperous and peaceful societies. Our second major conference Infrastructure and Happiness, brought together 11 worldwide scholars and practitioners to examine how urban infrastructure—from its physical to its intangible elements—affects the future of humanity.

Our series, Structural Racism and the Root Causes of Prejudice, featured Dr. Sacoby Wilson, Director of the Program on Community Engagement, Environmental Justice, and Health at the Maryland Institute for Applied Environmental Health. Dr. Wilson addressed environmental racism with a view towards local action and upliftment.
In 2019, the Bahá’í Chair published two major academic books and one scholarly article.

Hoda Mahmoudi & Steven Mintz, eds. *Children & Globalization: Multidisciplinary Perspectives*, Routledge Publishing

Hoda Mahmoudi & Michael L. Penn, eds. *Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Human Dignity and Human Right*, Emerald Publishing


Our students continue to enrich The Bahá’í Chair for World Peace program. From writing blogs viewed by thousands to securing our social media presence, they continue to be a vital part of the Chair’s mission.

The Chair’s work could also not proceed without the wisdom and dedication of our esteemed Assistant Director, Dr. Kate Seaman. Her work in ensuring all the gears of the Chair turn smoothly is one of the reasons we have been so successful. Our Faculty Fellow, Malik Wilson is also an important part of our work at the Chair and our vision for the future.

As Director of The Bahá’í Chair for World Peace I am deeply indebted to our supporters and profoundly humbled to be a part of this important work – work that seeks to heal the fragmentation of world society in the quest for peace. We have pride in the accomplishments of the year gone by and look forward to what is to come in the year ahead.

Thank You,

Hoda Mahmoudi
Chair and Research Professor
The Bahá’í Chair for World Peace
Our world is undergoing seismic changes. Continually expanding cross border migration, rising wealth disparities across nations and between urban and rural populations, environment-related risks, as well as the rapid pace of technological change challenging definitions of community and identity are demanding that we rethink national development objectives; these were historically driven by economic growth but perhaps the catalyst should instead be what matters most – our happiness.

Over the last 40 years, economists, psychologists, sociologists, and other social scientists have studied ways to define and measure happiness. Now, governments around the world are aspiring to measure happiness within their own populations and develop in a way which leads to its improvement.

With urban populations set to increase by 2.4 billion people by 2050, a significant number of those migrating from rural areas, new development in cities may provide the greatest potential for improved global happiness. Complex processes must be envisioned and coordinated to plan, develop, and operate any city, let alone one which improves happiness sustainably and inclusively, not just within the city, but the surrounding rural regions as well.

The path forward requires the integration of different disciplines – such as urban planning, sociology, psychology, economics, technology, finance, and politics – as well as collaboration between agents from different sectors – government, industry, academia, and civil society.

To create a rich dialogue through layering, debating, and, at times uniting, these diverse perspectives, we must bring together decision-makers and thought leaders from these disciplines and sectors to synthesize strategies for achieving happier cities.

**J. Ricardo Alvarez**, Researcher, MIT Senseable City Lab, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Boston, Massachusetts

**Houssam Elokda**, Director of Operations and Masterplanning Lead, Happy City, Vancouver Canada

**Carrie Exton**, Head of Section, Monitoring Well-Being and Progress, OECD Statistics Directorate, Paris, France
Carol Graham, Senior Fellow/ Professor, Brookings Institute, Washington DC and University of Maryland

Lok Sang Ho, Dean of Business, Chu Hai College of Higher Education, Hong Kong

Louise Lambert, Editor and Founder Middle East Journal of Positive Psychology, Dubai

Rodrigo Marquez, Coordinator for the Human Development Report, United Nations Development Program, Chile

Aubrilyn Reeder, Senior Manager Economic Cluster, United World Infrastructure, Dubai

Joe Reeder, Principal, United World Infrastructure, Washington DC

Jenny Roe, Mary Irene Deshong Professor of Design and Health, Urban and Environmental Planning Faculty, Director of the Center for Design and Health, University of Virginia

Carol Ryff, Professor of Psychology, University of Wisconsin - Madison
As we enter the third decade of the twenty-first century, women continue to face obstacles to their equal participation in all areas of daily life: political, social, and economic. These obstacles persist despite the growth in education of girls, despite large scale social movements, and despite political waves. This conference sought to broaden and deepen our understanding of women in relation to the inequalities they face, based not only on gender, but on race, class, religion, and more. It also sought to highlight the progress that women have made, and how this progress contributes to the creation of more peaceful and prosperous societies.

Scholars and practitioners from across the globe, offering a wide range of perspectives and experiences, examined crucial questions, offered new ideas, and innovative solutions to increasing the role of women moving forward.

Marie Berry, Assistant Professor of International Comparative Politics, University of Denver

Dawn Dow, Assistant Professor of Sociology, University of Maryland

Galia Golan, Darwin Professor Emerita, Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Perla Guerrero, Associate Professor of American Studies and U.S. Latina/o Studies, University of Maryland

Cecily Hardaway, Assistant Professor of African American Studies, University of Maryland

Adia M. Harvey Wingfield, Professor of Sociology, Washington University in St. Louis

Daphna Joel, Professor of Psychology, Tel Aviv University

Rebecca Jordan-Young, Associate Professor of Women’s Gender, and Sexuality Studies, Barnard College

Jane Parpart, Faculty Fellow, Department of Conflict Resolution, Human Security and Global Governance, University of Massachusetts, Boston

Margaret Satterthwaite, Professor of Clinical Law, New York University

Denise Segura, Professor of Sociology, University of California Santa Barbara

Laura Sjoberg, Associate Professor of Political Science, University of Florida

Brandy Thomas Wells, Assistant Professor of History, Oklahoma State University
In May 27, 2016, Barack Obama became the first sitting American president to visit the site of the world’s first atomic bombing. In a speech that day at the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park, Obama proclaimed that the “scientific revolution that led to the splitting of an atom requires a moral revolution as well.” In this lecture, Dr. Alondra Nelson considered the “politics of ethics” that was a signature of the Obama administration’s approach to science and technology. This politics of ethics endeavored to place temporal distance between scientific research of the past and present, enabling claims about the importance of federal science to national wellbeing, broadly conceived.

Alondra Nelson, President of the Social Science Research Council and Harold F. Linder Professor at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, is an acclaimed researcher and author, who explores questions of science, technology, and social inequality. Nelson serves on the board of directors of the Teagle Foundation and the Data & Society Research Institute. She is an elected Fellow of the American Academy of Political and Social Science and of the Hastings Center, and is an elected Member of the Sociological Research Association.
FEBRUARY 2019

Pursuing Racial Equity in Prince George’s County, MD

Steve Brigham, Principal, Public Engagement Associates, Washington DC and Board Member, Prince George’s County Social Innovation Fund, Prince George’s County, Maryland

Marcus Bullock, CEO, Flikshop, Prince George’s County, Maryland

Brittney Drakeford, Member, Gethsemane United Methodist Church, Cottage City, Maryland

Amy Kincaid, Chief Program Officer, BALLE, Washington DC

Hoda Mahmoudi, Research Professor and Chair, Bahá’í Chair for World Peace, University of Maryland

Rashawn Ray, Associate Professor of Sociology and Executive Director of the Lab for Applied Social Science Research (LASSR), University of Maryland

Tonia Wellons, Founder - Prince George’s County Social Innovation Fund, Prince George’s County, Maryland and Vice President, The Greater Washington Community Foundation, Washington DC

Dr. Sacoby Wilson, Associate Professor, Applied Environmental Health (MIAEH), University of Maryland
Infrastructure and Happiness Conference
(see page 4)

MARCH 2019
Black Girl Labor as Magic: Toward an Understanding of Digital Black Feminism

Catherine Knight Steele, Assistant Professor, Department of Communication, University of Maryland

APRIL 2019
The Impact of Global Economic Governance on Low and Mid-Income Countries

Uzma Ashraf Barton, Technical Advisor/ Consultant at Ministry of Finance, Republic of Zambia

Simone Raudino, Visiting Professor, Kiev School of Economics, Ukraine
APRIL 2019
“How Deep the Rabbit Hole Goes”: The Alt-Right’s Infatuation with Stoic Philosophy

Donna Zuckerberg, Founder and Editor in Chief of Eidolon, San Francisco, California

SEPTEMBER 2019
Women in the World: Time for a New Paradigm for Peace
(see page 6)

OCTOBER 2019
Annual Lecture 2019 - Even a Moon Shot Needs a Flight Plan: Genetics and Ethics in the Obama Administration
(see page 7)

Alondra Nelson, Harold F. Linder Professor, Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton and President, Social Science Research Council, New York
Environmental Racism and Slavery in 21st Century Jim Crow America: Stories of Resistance, Hope, and Change

Sacoby Wilson, Associate Professor and Director of the Program on Community Engagement, Environmental Justice, and Health, at the Maryland Institute for Applied Environmental Health, School of Public Health, University of Maryland

Man Up? Toxic Masculinity and the Health of Men, Women and children

Kevin Roy, Associate Professor of Family Science, School of Public Health, University of Maryland
Edited Volumes

Childhood and Globalization: A Multidisciplinary Perspective

A volume featuring papers presented at the Learning Outside the Lines Conference on Childhood in a Globalizing World, is published with Routledge and available now. This volume was edited in partnership with Professor Stephen Mintz, University of Texas Austin.

Interdisciplinary perspectives on Human Dignity and Human Rights

This volume features papers presented at the Reflections on Human Dignity Conference held in 2013. It is published with Emerald Publishing and is available now. The volume was edited in partnership with Professor Michael L. Penn, Franklin and Marshall College.

Published Journal Articles

Freedom and the Iranian Women’s Movement in Contexts Magazine. Summer 2019. Dr. Hoda Mahmoudi

Maryland Day

On the last Saturday of April, the campus of the flagship university opens its doors, rain or shine – offering more than 400 free events, on-campus transportation and a wide variety of food vendors. Throughout Maryland’s 1,250-acre campus, visitors can take tours, explore exhibits, and attend demonstrations. This year the Baha’i Chair offered an interactive activity asking visitors “How can we bridge divides in our community?” The responses were then used to construct a visual bridge, encompassing ideas for how to build community and cross barriers to peace.

First Look Fair

First Look Fair is one of the longest running involvement traditions at the University of Maryland. First Look Fair hosts approximately 600 student clubs and organizations, campus departments and services, local vendors, and community service agencies. Each Fall the Baha’i Chair hosts a table at First Look Fair to advertise our upcoming events and to meet incoming and returning students interested in our mission.
Conference and Paper Presentations

ISA Annual Conference, Toronto, Canada, March 2019

Roundtable: Re-envisioning the Foundations of International Relations: Innovation, Progress, Inclusivity, and Commonality

Hoda Mahmoudi, University of Maryland, Bahá’í Chair for World Peace
Kate Seaman, University of Maryland, Bahá’í Chair for World Peace
Siba Grovogui, Cornell University
Anna Agathangelou, York University
Jacqueline Braveboy-Wagner, CUNY

European Centre for the Responsibility to Protect Conference, Leeds, United Kingdom, June 2019

Paper Presentation: Who deserves protection? The Responsibility to Protect, Ideal Victims, and the Perpetuation of Gender Stereotypes in Conflict

Kate Seaman, University of Maryland, Bahá’í Chair for World Peace

BISA Annual Conference, London, United Kingdom, June 2019
Paper Presentation: Protecting Displaced Civilians: The Responsibility to Protect Refugees

Kate Seaman, University of Maryland, Bahá’í Chair for World Peace

Paper Presentation: The Grey Zone: Protecting Civilians in the Move from Peacekeeping to Peace Enforcement

Kate Seaman, University of Maryland, Bahá’í Chair for World Peace

CEEISA-ISA Conference, Belgrade, Serbia, June 2019

Panel: Legitimacy, Authority, and Order in an Age of Anxiety

Hoda Mahmoudi, University of Maryland, Bahá’í Chair for World Peace
Kate Seaman, University of Maryland, Bahá’í Chair for World Peace
Michael Allen, Bryn Mawr College
Jana Urbanovska, Masaryk University
Speaking Engagements

In 2019 the Bahá’í Chair was invited to give the following lectures and workshops:

**SEPTEMBER 2019**

**In Search of Solutions to the Blight of Racial Prejudice in America**
Medford, Grants Pass, and Ashland, Oregon

Three workshops discussing the history of race in America and how addressing and accepting that history is part of the solution.

**OCTOBER 2019**

**The Problem of Structural Racism: An Obstacle to Peace**
Wofford College, Spartanburg, South Carolina

**The Equality of Women: A Precondition to International Peace**
Converse College, Spartanburg, South Carolina
Media Coverage: 2018-2019

Many of the events hosted by the Chair have been covered by a variety of news outlets including The Diamondback, the University of Maryland student newspaper, The Bahá’í World News Service, and other local and national newspapers. The articles and links are listed below.

UMD panel explores gender inequality’s impact on world peace, Diamondback

The problem with prejudice, Ashland Tidings

Dr. Hoda Mahmoud: “In Search of Solutions to the Blight of Prejudice in America”, Jefferson Public Radio
https://www.ijpr.org/community-calendar/event/536320#stream/0

UMD panelists discuss making Prince George’s County “more equitable across racial lines”, Diamondback

Cities, technology, and happiness: a look at the future, Bahá’í World News Service
https://news.bahai.org/story/1320

Toward global peace: Bahá’í Chair assembles leading specialists, Bahá’í World News Service
https://news.bahai.org/story/1291

Bahá’í Chair explores overcoming racism, Bahá’í World News Service
https://news.bahai.org/story/1288
Social Media

The Bahá’í Chair is active on social media: Twitter, Facebook, YouTube and Instagram. According to Google Analytics individuals from over 50 nations are regular visitors to the Chair’s website. Our lectures have been viewed on YouTube over 40,000 times and we also post regular updates on our Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter feeds.

Bahá’í Chair Interns

Emily Gorey, Marketing Specialist, 2018-2019

As a freshman at the University of Maryland, I added the honors seminar, The Problem of Prejudice: Overcoming Impediments to Peace and Justice, to my fall schedule. Little did I know that the professor before me, Dr. Hoda Mahmoudi, as well as the class, would change how I saw the world and myself. From that day on, until my closing days as a student of the University of Maryland, The Baha’i Chair for World Peace has transformed me into a citizen of the world.

Dr. Mahmoudi’s seminar gave me a new perspective on struggles outside the view of my privilege. The conferences, symposiums, and lectures highlighted the potential for progress. The two years serving as Marketing Intern gave me tangible experience for my future career, but more importantly, gave me two extraordinary role models, mentors, and friends. Dr. Hoda Mahmoudi and Dr. Kate Seaman inspired me each day in the office to be kinder, more thoughtful, and better educated for the sake of those who cannot educate themselves.

Spending time with the Chair, softens the hearts of those who listen, while strengthening their values and actions. The Baha’i Chair for World Peace handed me the tools to better our world – the ability to notice, listen, and empathize. As I graduate, I am not hardened at the knowledge of permeating societal struggles, but gifted hope. I cannot thank Dr. Mahmoudi and Dr. Seaman more for this gift.
Alawi Masud, *Research and Events, 2018-2019*

Education allows you to see reality in new and refreshing ways. The street in front of you is no longer just a street: it’s a modern marvel of engineering, or a story of local government coming together, or even an artistic expression when compared to its surroundings. The value of education is found in how it evolves the way you look at things.

The Baha’i Chair interested me because of this very aspect. The lectures the program held were on things I never covered in my classes. They included analyses that invoked a wide variety of fields and disciplines, which I was experiencing for the first time. The world made a little bit more sense after coming to these lectures, but also gave me more questions to explore.

Professor Mahmoudi and the team noticed me coming to these lectures often and they decided to give me a chance by offering me an internship, an opportunity that was fundamental in shaping how I view the world today.

The mix of fields and topics is the Baha’i Chair’s strong suit. Their interdisciplinary approach focuses on showing how all fields of education are interconnected and relate to each other. This tool of understanding how different analyses come together has really shaped my educational career, and without it, I do not think I would be able to value education as much as I do now.

---

Kathryn Obisesan, *Research and Events, 2019*

As a Senior Government and Politics – International Relations and Economics double major I sought out an internship with the Baha’i Chair because I was interested in spending my Fall semester engaging in important conversations about global issues. From afar I have admired the work of Dr. Hoda Mahmoudi, and Dr. Kate Seaman and I was very excited to get involved in what they do.

This Fall, I was granted the opportunity to contribute to their incredible work and engaged in a number of activities as an intern. While interning, I attended the Baha’i Chair Fall Conference on women in the world, the Baha’i Chair annual lecture given by Professor Alondra Nelson, and a lecture on Toxic Masculinity given by a University of Maryland Public Health Professor.

At each of these events I helped make sure that everything ran smoothly. I also took notes at each event to later use for content on the Baha’i Chair blog. After each of these events I wrote a personal insight piece on some of the key points or lessons I took away from the speaker. My experience with the Baha’i Chair has definitely exposed me to new insights and concepts about the state of the world.
The Bahá’í Chair for World Peace
Dr. Hoda Mahmoudi
1114 Chincoteague Hall
University of Maryland
College Park, MD 20742

To find out more about the Bahá’í Chair for World Peace, visit bahaichair.umd.edu or follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram (@bahaichair).

About The Bahá’í Chair for World Peace

The Bahá’í Chair for World Peace at the University of Maryland is an endowed academic program that advances interdisciplinary examination and discourse on global peace. While drawing certain initial insights from religion, the program aims to develop a sound scientific basis for knowledge and strategies that lead to the creation of a better world.

Giving to the Chair

The Bahá’í Chair for World Peace at the University of Maryland welcomes your support in raising awareness about its important and timely mission in examining pathways to peace. As a self-supporting academic program, the Bahá’í Chair for World Peace is grateful for and appreciates contributions of any amount in support of its activities. Please make your check for the Bahá’í Chair payable to the University System of Maryland Foundation, Inc., and also include “Bahá’í Chair Operating Fund” on the memo line. More information is available at baha.umd.edu/giving.